



SOCIAL SECURITY

Refer to:
S9H: SSA-2019-002016

November 12, 2019

Sai
MuckRock News Dept
MR 71711 411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144
71711-00258238@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Sai:

This letter is to notify you of the fees associated with your April 15, 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for:

1. All FOIA or Privacy Act requests for the Open Access Social Security Death Master File (OA-SSDMF) filed on or after January 1, 2012, including request SSA-2019-000571, together with all related request processing records, such as the response(s), appeal(s), appeal response(s), fee payment record(s), fee calculation(s), record(s) provided in response, etc.
2. All URIs where the OA-SSDMF file(s) are located, including Social Security Administration (SSA) or National Technical Information Service (NTIS) Intranet servers and SSA or NTIS public websites, as current.
3. All Intranet webpages about the OA-SSDMF, as current.
4. All policy documents about the OA-SSDMF, issued on or after January 1, 2012, and as current.
5. All OA-SSDMF database format specifications, issued on or after January 1, 2012, and as current.
6. All OA-SSDMF usage guides, issued on or after January 1, 2012, and as current.
7. All OA-SSDMF database file metadata, including file names, sizes, last modified date, created date, etc., as current.

Per your request, you exclude any records related to the "Limited Access DMF" unless they relate to the OA-SSDMF, or are part of a record responsive to your request.

We have determined that your request is for non-program related purposes and therefore, the agency should charge the full costs it incurs when providing you this information. *See* 20 C.F.R. § 402.175. Section 1106 of the Social Security Act (Act) gives the agency the authority to charge full costs for responding to information requests that are for non-program related purposes, regardless of the fee provisions of FOIA. 42 U.S.C. § 1306(c). Because the agency is invoking its authority under section 1106 of the Act, your status as a FOIA requester is irrelevant and the agency will charge you full costs. Accordingly, the agency will charge you for search, duplication, and review it undertakes

to attempt to fulfill your request, regardless of your status as an “other” requester. *See* 20 C.F.R. § 402.175(c).

When our employees search for records, we charge the following hourly rate depending on the grade of the employee:

- \$16.00 (GS-1 through GS-8)
- \$33.00 (GS-9 through GS-14)
- \$59.00 (GS-15 and above)

We estimate the cost to provide this information is \$382.00, which includes 2 hours of search and review time at \$59.00, 6 hours of search time at \$33.00, and 2 hours of review time at \$33.00 per hour. If there is a duplication fee, we will bill you. In addition, according to our regulations at 20 C.F.R. § 402.175(e), we may charge a fee for search time even if we are unable to locate any responsive records or the records are exempt from disclosure.

On April 30, 2019, our office sent a message to the email address that we have on file (71711-00258238@requests.muckrock.com) requesting clarification regarding item #2 and did not receive it. Therefore, the fee estimate above does not include the cost of item #2.

If you want us to proceed with your request, **you must let us know**. You may also narrow the scope of your request or set a limit on the amount you are willing to pay. You may pay by check or money order made payable to SSA or by credit card (MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express, or Diner’s Club). To pay by credit card, complete and sign the enclosed form. Be sure to include your credit card number and expiration date.

You may submit payment information by email to FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov or by mail to my attention at G-401 WHR, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235. Please annotate the above reference number on your payment. **If we do not receive payment within ten business days from the date of this letter, we will administratively close your request.** You will not receive separate notification that we closed your request.

If you have questions, or would like further assistance with your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov; by phone at 410-965-1727, by choosing Option 2; or facsimile at 410-966-0869.

You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration for dispute resolution services. OGIS is an entity outside of SSA that offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you disagree with this decision, you may file a written appeal with the Executive Director for the Office of Privacy and Disclosure, Social Security Administration, G-401 WHR, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted to FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov within 90 days of the date of our response to your initial request.

Please mark the envelope or subject line with “Freedom of Information Appeal.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Zimmerman".

Mary Ann Zimmerman
Freedom of Information Officer

Enclosure